

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 14103 020910Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02
/093 W

-----043508 030455Z /17

R 020801Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4612

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 14103

FODAG

FOR PAUL BYRNES, IO/AGR

PASS AID FOR SALES

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR KRIESBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, AORG, WFC
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME LUNCHEON WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL, JULY
26

1. AT INVITATION OF PECKHAM, UK PERMREP, FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL
SAOUMA MET WITH CERTAIN GENEVA GROUP (GG) COUNTRIES FOR INFORMAL
LUNCH JULY 26. OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE PHILLIPS, FAO ASSISTANT
DG; KENEALLY, AUSTRALLIA; WIGHTMAN, CANADA; LIEBER, FRDG; BAEYENS,
BELGIUM; BATAULT, FRANCE; DE BAKKER, NETHERLANDS; AND CRUIT, FODAG.
2. CONCERNING ATMOSPHERE, SAOUMA MADE OBVIOUS EFFORT TO BE
FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE, AND UNDERSTANDING. HE SEEMED TO HAVE NEW
AIR OF CONFIDENCE AND GENUINE DESIRE TO WORK WITH GG COUNTRIES.
HE AGREED TO HOLDING MORE INFORMAL MEETINGS PERIODICALLY IN FUTURE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 14103 020910Z

3. REGARDING FAO BUDGET FOR NEXT BIENNIUM, SAOUMA INDICATED ON
VERY EARLY AND TENTATIVE BASIS THAT HE EXPECTED INCREASE OF
APPROXIMATELY 7-7.5 PERCENT OVER CURRENT BUDGET. HE
STRESSED THAT THIS NOT LARGE INCREASE CONSIDERING
RECENT PREVIOUS INCREASES IN FAO BUDGET. ALSO, HE STRESSED
NEED FOR RECOGNITION OF FAO'S SPECIAL POSITION AS CENTRAL
AGENCY IN MEETING WORLD'S FOOD PROBLEMS. GG COUNTRIES, FOR

THEIR PART, STRESSED PROBLEMS EXISTING IN OWN COUNTRIES.
U.S. POINTED TO PRESSURES ON ITS GOVERNMENT BOTH INTERNATIONALLY
AND DOMESTICALLY TO CURB GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

4. SAOUMA LAID HEAVY EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT HE AND DR. PHILLIPS
WERE REVIEWING EACH UNIT IN FAO TO SEE WHERE SAVINGS
COULD BE EFFECTED.

5. SAOUMA MADE POINT THAT, IN HIS OPINION, A "CONTACT GROUP"
APPROACH COULD FACILITATE REACHING CONSENSUS ON BUDGET AND,
HAD SUCH AN APPROACH BEEN TAKEN AT LAST CONFERENCE, ABSTENTIONS
AND QUALIFICATIONS OF APPROVALS WOULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED.

6. ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), SAOUMA EXPRESSED HIMSELF MOST
CLEARLY: QTE IT IS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY AND ONLY DUPLICATES
WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE EFFECTIVELY BY FAO. END QTE. THOUGH
NOT TAKING SAOUMA ON DIRECTLY ON THIS POINT, THE GG MEMBERS
STRESSED NEED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN FAO AND WFC. THEY NOTED
THAT, INDEED, WFC COULD HELP FAO BY HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANT
ISSUES. SAOUMA DID NOT CHALLENGE THIS POSITION EVEN IF HE DID
NOT ACCEPT IT.

7. CONCERNING NEW WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECOTR, SAOUMA EXPRESSED
HIGH REGARD FOR HIM AND HOPE FOR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WHICH,
HE SAYS, HAS NOT EXISTED WITH HANNAH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 14103 020910Z

8. COMMENT: GG MEMBERS PRESENT AT LUNCH WERE IMPRESSED
WITH SAOUMA'S NEW APPROACH TO DEALING WITH GROUP. INDEED,
HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET PERIODICALLY IS STEP FORWARD. IN
FACT, HE MAY HAVE REALIZED HIS OLD APPROACH MAY NOT HAVE GAINED
HIM VERY MUCH AND, LOOKING TOWARD HIS RE-ELECTION, DECIDED TO
USE A LITTLE HONEY INSTEAD OF ALL THAT VINEGAR TO REACH
HIS OBJECTIVES.HOLMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME14103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780317-0676
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808107/aaaadlof.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e018b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1560285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP ROME LUNCHEON WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL, JULY 26
TAGS: AORG, FAO, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e018b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014